



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Southern District of Georgia

Post Office Box 8970

100 Bull Street

Savannah, GA 31412
(912) 652-4422 / FAX (912) 652-4471

/Savannah, GA 31401

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CONTACT: DAN DRAKE
Fax: (912)652-4326

***Swainsboro Businessman Enters Guilty Plea in Connection
with Conspiracy to Defraud Swazi Government and
Fraudulent Loan to Build Wrightsville Catfish Processing
Plant; Co-conspirator Sentenced to Term of 32 Months***

SAVANNAH: Edmund A. Booth, Jr. Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, announced today that Erwin David Rabhan of Swainsboro, Georgia appeared in U.S. District Court in Statesboro, Georgia before U.S. District Judge B. Avant Edenfield and entered a plea of guilty to a single count of conspiracy to make false statements and commit bank fraud against the AmTrade International Bank of Atlanta, Georgia in connection with two letters of credit and the Enterprise National Bank of Palm Beach, Florida in connection with a loan application. The conspiracy generated over \$13,000,000.00 in fraudulently obtained funds. The guilty plea involved Rabhan's fraudulent inducements made to a government agency in the Kingdom of Swaziland to invest over \$6,000,000.00, by representing that it was entering into a joint venture with Rabhan's company, Nutrition Dynamics International, to build state of the art baby food formula and candy factories and Rabhan's efforts to defraud Enterprise National Bank of Palm Beach, Florida, into making a \$5,000,000.00 loan for the construction of a catfish processing plant in Wrightsville, Georgia. That loan was guaranteed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) through the Rural Development Administration's Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program.

Rabhan's co-conspirator, Lee N. Jones, who had earlier pled guilty to a single count of conspiracy arising out of the same fraudulent conduct, was sentenced today by Judge Edenfield to serve 32 months imprisonment to be followed by 3 years supervised release and restitution.

Rabhan faces a maximum term of imprisonment of 5 years and a fine of \$250,000.00. A sentencing date has not yet been scheduled.

Mr. Booth stated that the guilty plea and sentencing were the culmination of a successful investigation by Special Agents Karen Citizen-Wilcox and Alan C. Kennedy of the United States Department of Agriculture, Office of Inspector General, and Special Agent Edward Sutcliff from the Statesboro office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Booth praised the efforts of the agents and Assistant United States Attorneys Lamar Walter and William Frentzen who represented the government in the case.

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